

## DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

JACKSON, April 25, 1868.

At a meeting of the Executive State Committee, held this day, it was

Resolved, That the Democratic State Convention be re-assembled at Jackson, on

TUESDAY, THE 12TH DAY OF MAY.

Questions of great magnitude to the people will be submitted to the Convention, and a full representation from every county in the State is urgently requested.

By order of the Committee,  
JOHN D. FREEMAN, Chairman.

## The Black and Tan Law-Makers.

The peculiar composition of the assemblages, in the Southern States, upon which Radicalism has thrown the responsibility of framing governments, is a subject of indignant comment, by impartial writers, on both sides of the Atlantic. Indeed, it is regarded as a burlesque upon the civilization of the age, and especially upon the systems of government prevalent in this country, that vagrant whites alien for the most part to the people whose laws they are pretending to form, and illiterate negroes, just escaped from a condition which wholly disqualified them to perform the functions of legislators, have been authorized to engage in the very highest and most important of species of legislation, viz: the framing of organic laws for the government and protection of communities. The chief aim of the bodies thus constituted, naturally has been to disfranchise, and to disqualify for office, the most virtuous and useful class of citizens without reference to former political associations, and to create a monopoly for the exclusive use of the description of animals that compose the aforesaid menageries.

The outrage which was perpetrated upon constitutional freedom and civilization, to say nothing of common decency, by the legislation which has brought this reproach upon the country, is commented upon, as follows, by an able Northern journal, the Chicago Times:

One of the persons sent to Washington by the black-and-tan assemblage pretending to the Legislature of Arkansas, to represent that State in the United States Senate, is a Mr. B. F. Rice. The Boston Post's Washington correspondent states that a person of the same name was formerly a Kentucky lawyer, who, having collected a large sum of money for a client, went over to Cincinnati and lost it in a conflict with "the tiger"; and that thereupon, being a person of "progressive ideas," he left for parts unknown.

Whether this be a case of personal identity or not, the moral it would point has abundant foundation in many analogous cases. The inauguration of a scheme to disfranchise all decent and respectable white men in the South was an open invitation to all indecent rascals, rascals, and jail-birds who had escaped to that region from the pursuit of Northern sheriffs, to come forward and be baptized in the Jacobin faith, and thus becoming heirs to official stations, from which respectable white men had been excluded.—The rascals and jail-birds were not slow to accept the invitation. "Verily, they have their reward." The "reconstructed" State governments, and probably the forthright Congress, will contain, not many months hence, a greater number of defaulters, runaway debtors, swindlers, and rogues of divers sorts, than any well-regulated jail in the South.

**COLORADO CONSERVATIVES.**—The New Orleans Picayune remarks that it is exceedingly gratifying to note the recent large increase in the colored conservative vote throughout the South. These colored conservatives appear to have something of organization among them, and show a determination to exercise the right of franchise, regardless of radical promises or persecutions. Most Southern men have expected that the negroes would become disgusted with radicalism, at some time, but the reaction was larger and more decided than was looked for by many at so early a period. Perhaps, after all, instead of inaugurating a war of races, the radicals may succeed only in causing the recently emancipated part of our population to renounce all guidance, except that of their former masters. If so, we believe they will be more free and much more happy and prosperous than they have ever been or can become under radical direction.

**DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVE CLUB.**—We understand that the number of members is daily increasing. Ere long it will be comprised of nine-tenths of the white voters in this precinct. It is worthy of notice that the oldest citizens of DeSoto, Gen. J. C. N. Robertson, an old line Whig, and Gen. Dan'l Boon, an old line Democrat, are the leading members of the club.—Herald Press.

Readings for the poor are now established in New York. The admission is only 10 cents, and the programme includes music as well as recitations.

We are gratified that our article advising the re-nomination of Governor Humphreys has met the approval of our able cotemporary of the Vicksburg Times. Our readers could not have failed to understand that our course was not dictated solely with reference to the unquestioned popularity of Gov. Humphreys, nor to his acknowledged fitness for the position he has worthily filled in the most critical period of our State's history—but that his re-nomination was advised as a matter of principle and of sound political policy, viz: that under the legitimate government of Mississippi he is entitled to hold the office until his successor is duly qualified; that, to run him for the place will be a declaration of this belief by the Conservatives, and that his re-election will carry with it the defeat of the bogus Constitution, and the maintenance of this doctrine.—And we repeat that should it be deemed wise to select a candidate without reference to the Radical test of qualification, Gov. Humphreys, for these reasons, according to our belief, is the proper man to be placed at the head of the Conservative State ticket.

In this connection, we will add that our usually accurate Vicksburg cotemporary is in error in his citation of the following as the oath required to be taken in order to qualify under the proposed Radical Constitution:

I, — of —, county of —, and State of —, do solemnly — that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought, nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever, under any authority, or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power, or constitution, within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further — that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation free, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

The foregoing is what is known as the iron-clad oath of 1862, without taking which no person can qualify for any Federal office, or any State office under the existing so-called provisional government. But the test prescribed under the reconstruction acts of Congress, is set forth in the proposed 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, viz:

Sec. 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President or Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath as member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid and comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

This test therefore would exclude no one from Federal or State office, however prominent a part he may have borne, or distinguished a position he may have held in the military or civil service of the Confederacy, who had not "previously" taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States. The "iron-clad" oath applies to Federal officers, and is required only of those who are appointed to State offices under the so-called provisional governments. The secessionary in this State has presumed to enlarge the foregoing conditions by disqualifying all who held any civil or military office under the Confederacy, whether they had "previously" taken an oath to support the United States Constitution or not; but there is no warrant for this proceeding in the law of Congress by virtue of which they are assembled, and that body is pledged to reject the Constitution it may frame if not in accordance with the provisions of the said act. But whether the Mongrels adhere to their new test or not, or whether Congress sanctions it or not, the oath quoted by our neighbor will not be prescribed for State officers under the proposed bogus Constitution. Under the latter every man is qualified for any State office whether he "engaged in armed hostility" to the United States or not; provided, his comrades and countrymen did not esteem him worthy or capable of filling a military or civil office under the authority of the Confederate States.

A Washington correspondent of the Louisville Courier writes:

It may be accepted as a fact that Judge Chase has abandoned the Radicals, or rather they have abandoned him. He utterly refuses to act with them in their assaults on the Constitution, and has repeatedly avowed his determination to use all his influence against their destructive measures.

Under the head of—"Our Candidate for Governor, Gen. M. P. Lowry, of Tippah county,"—the Ripley Advertiser, says:

We this week place at our mast head the name of one of the most capable, best and noblest men of our State for the office of Governor. We do this because we are impressed with the idea that it is the very best nomination that can be made. We know it will meet the approval of the people of North Mississippi, and that there is no man in the State who could command so enthusiastic a support. The negroes of Tippah county will support him in preference to the radical candidate, because they know that he is a better friend to them, though opposed to their political pretensions than any scallawag can be. We suppose the General will be as nearly qualified as any other man likely to be nominated.

Simultaneously with the above declaration in favor of the choice of the eminent Christian Patriot, Gen. M. P. Lowry, as the Democratic candidate for Governor, by the paper published in his own county, we have heard his name mentioned with equal favor in this portion of the State.—Gen. Lowry's stainless escutcheon, his ability, sound principles, and the esteem in which he is held by all classes of his fellow-citizens, undoubtedly designate him as a strong man for the office. While he endeavored himself to his old comrades in arms, and did what he believed to be his duty in the civil war, on the side of his brethren of the South, he had not "previously" taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, never had held any official position, political, or otherwise, and is therefore not disqualified for the Chief Magistracy of his State by the reconstruction acts, beyond which the Military Conventions have no authority to go into the imposition of disabilities. Indeed, the law of Congress expressly pledges that body to reject the application of any State for admission, whose constitution does not accord with its conditions. Our people ought therefore, in making nominations to treat as a nullity any pretended ordinance of the Convention which exceeds the limits prescribed for its action by the law which has brought it into existence. Congress dare not go before the people of the North with the crime of recognizing or enforcing an act excluding from office persons who are qualified by their own laws.

For reasons before stated we believe that our present Governor will bring more strength to the defeat of the bogus Constitution, than any other person who can be named, and that he ought to be nominated, if it is decided to disregard the tests prescribed in the reconstruction acts; but if otherwise, our Ripley cotemporary has designated a patriot, who will in all essentials meet the requirements of the position.

We will add that there are a number of other able and well-known men in our State, who took no oath of office before the war, and are not disqualified under the reconstruction acts, and who would command the enthusiastic support of all true Conservatives. Among them may be mentioned, Gen. Robert Lowry, Gen. Nat. Harris, Dr. C. K. Marshall, Hon. J. W. C. Watson, Col. W. T. Withers and Col. W. H. McCardle.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

## The Cotton Production.

Within about three months the price of cotton has risen from 7½d at Liverpool to 12½d. Returns show that the stocks and quantity in transit, at the latest dates by mail, amounted to 320, 000 bales less than at the same period last year. Of this, the decrease in the amount afloat from India, was 126,000 bales. A part of this deficiency is attributed to the diversion of shipping to the Abyssinian expedition, and the shipments from India are now increasing.

It is not known how far the supply from India will go to make up for the present lightness of stocks in America and England, which seems to warrant the recent advance, and to make it probable that the present prices will be maintained. But the Indian supply is yet an unknown quantity, and a reduced consumption of cotton fabrics must be calculated from this high price of cotton.

While urging the repeal of the tax, we argued that upon the ability of America to restore the former production, with a regular increase, at a low price, would depend whether it would recover the former control of the cotton market of the world; and that therefore a low price was the best for the permanent interest of the cotton production in this country. And so we still think, although a great rise in price is very pleasant and profitable to all who happen to hold when it comes.

The rise will of course stimulate the planting of a new crop in India, as well as in this country, and perhaps to a much greater extent, because their capital has not met such disasters as that invested in the growth and trade in cotton in the South. It will prolong the culture in India, and will put off the time when American cotton will again rule the market. But it also helps to tide our producers over a time when their capital was destroyed, and their labor system undergoing a revolution, and therefore it has its compensations. With these circumstances, we can reasonably calculate upon a fine crop this year and remunerative prices.

A young man committed suicide in Cincinnati last week. A letter was found in his room directed to the "Coroner of Cincinnati," begging his officers pardon for calling upon him officially, telling him at the same time business must be attended to.

## The Latest News.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—House.—There is a deficiency of eighty-seven thousand dollars for the administration of the Reconstruction act in the 3rd Military District.

Gen. Gillen has made a report to Gen. Grant stating that the complete tables show a majority of over 1,200 for ratification of the Constitution in Arkansas. There are, in the counties of Pulaski and Johnson, nineteen hundred votes, which cannot be ascertained to be for or against the Constitution. Where there are irregularities, each party charges the other with fraud.

Court.—A prolonged secret session resulted in the following: That Court adjourn to Monday at 11 o'clock, when it will consider the rules and vote on the several articles shall be taken of noon Tuesday, without debate.

Speeches shall be limited to fifteen minutes on the entire subject, and not on each article. Members may file written opinions within two days after the vote on articles, to be published with the proceedings.

Notions regarding form in which the Chief Justice shall put the question to Senators tabled.

It is stated that adjournment till Monday was at the instance of Chase, who desires time to reflect upon the proper manner of putting the question.

Robinson offered a resolution expunging the impeachment resolution from the Journal.

The Speaker declared that no privilege question was before the House, and that it would ultimately be expunged.

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## TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the Bar of Mississippi, held in the United States court room, at Jackson, on Tuesday, the 5th day of May, A. D. 1868, the undersigned were appointed a committee, to report to an adjourned meeting an address and resolutions, commemorative of our deceased friend and brother, the late Capt. WILLIAM M. ESTELLE.

Our committee beg leave to report: Our deceased brother met his sad and terrible fate, at the hand of an assassin, on the night of the 23rd of March, A. D. 1868, while quietly walking, through one of the most public thoroughfares of this city, to his residence.

The motive which prompted this terrible deed, has baffled judicial investigation, and defied the scrutiny of keen-eyed affection.—Though appalled at the enormity of the crime which has so suddenly swept our friend and brother from our midst, and stunned at the irreparable loss, which our whole community has sustained, in his death, and almost mute with grief and despair, we feel it a duty and a privilege to present to the public, some permanent and lasting testimonial of our high regard and love for our deceased brother, as a member of that fraternity, which he adorned as a man and a citizen, in all the varied relations of life: therefore be it